

Legentary

4

Williams Smith Price

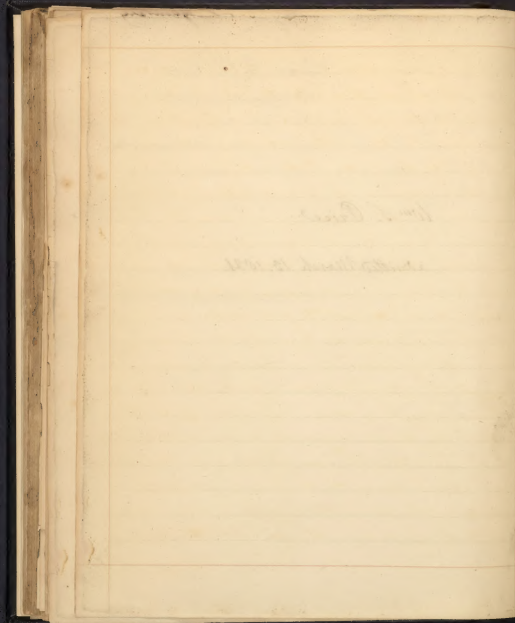
No 74 South 11 Street

Brown

November 6th

Wm. S. Price

admitted March 13. 1821.



Of Dysentery.

Cullen defined this disease to be a contagious fever, in which the patient has mucous or bloody stools, with much griping and tenderness the faces for the most part being retained—

From the fact of its contagiousness, his definition requires no amendment.—Sydenham's description of the disease is very accurate, and has been copied by most succeeding writers.—

An attack comes on with chills alternating with flushings, frequent pulse, griping soon follows with a propensity to go to stool.—

In some cases the local affection however is the first symptom. In others the disease is preceded by loss of appetite—constipation—nausea and vomiting, then comes on Irritation of the bowels— as the disease advances the evacuations become frequent with painful termina, Blood is often expelled the termina and tenderness are increased—the alvine evacuation is altered becoming frothy, mucous or streaked with blood, and

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and in some cases there is Hemorrhage of pure blood. Sometimes coagulated lumps resembling bits of cheese are found in the stools, when natural faces do appear they are usually in the form of small compact hardened substances known by the name of Scybala, these invariably give the patient temporary relief. Connected with the symptoms already enumerated is Fever shown by the heat restlessness, and thirst—the pulse is not very full nor active. At this point of the disease terminates sometimes in a few days. but is often more protracted, if not arrested it becomes very serious and alarming—the pain increases, there is great prostration of strength—the extremities become cold, the abdomen tense—Pelechia, Hic-cough and aphthae make their appearance, with full pulse, and alvine discharge resembling the Glura Carneum, these symptoms are usually the precursors of death.—

The marks which denote

a favourable termination to the disease are
a remission of the attendant fever - the skin
becoming moist and relaxed - the stools becoming
less frequent and more natural with a diminution
of the tormina and tenesmus. —

It was formerly supposed that Dysentery originated exclusively in contagion, but this is not the fact, The sound doctrine on this subject appears to be this - that in general Dysentery is not contagious, but becomes so only when connected with a fever of a typhoid character, For if the disease could be created by inhalation from the evacuations or putrefying secretions or excretions of a patient as was formerly supposed, we should find it divided into as many distinct diseases of different characters as there are different sorts of excrementitious matters. —

The disease is also propagated although the utmost degree of cleanliness be observed

The most common causes are the ordinary sources of our natural fevers - the taking of acrid articles of food - it sometimes is produced by the sensible qualities of the atmosphere - attenuations of heat and cold - of moisture and dryness - any check of perspiration. It not infrequently occurs as an Epidemic - sometimes accompanied catarrh and has been known to alternate with Phlogism - according to Sydenham a *Febris introverta* a febrile affection determined to the elementary canal, assuming the Intermittent Remittent or continued type, and may be either Inflammatory or Typhus. -

This disease usually and when it arises from marsh effluvia always commences in the stomach - afterwards, affecting the bowels and expending its force on the large intestines - Dissections shew us these parts inflamed and otherwise diseased -

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The indications in the cure of Dysentery are very obvious - To reduce inflammation, remove irritation and Spasm - to open the bowels and restore perspiration - It is the usual practice among medical men to commence the cure with the exhibition of Emetics - I do not believe them in general demanded here - They are better adapted to those cases which sometimes present themselves particularly in malarious countries where the stomach is overloaded - there is gastric distress and symptoms of accumulation of Bile

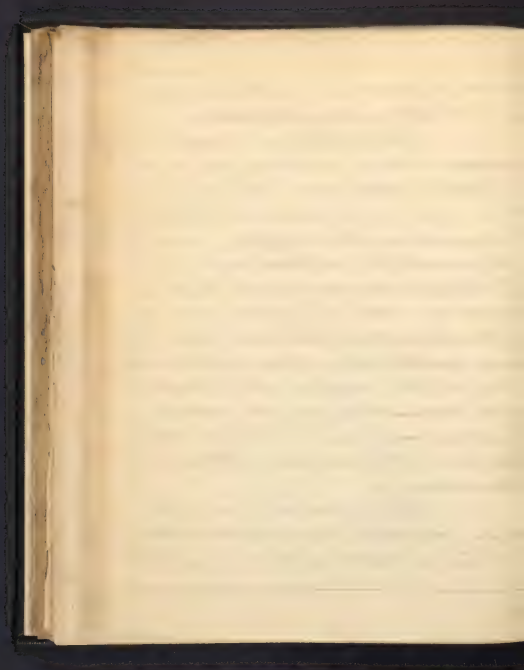
Blood-letting is indispensably necessary, the early drawing of blood arrests the inflammation & renders the susceptibility of the system to the action of other remedies, and it is the best means of awakening sensibility. There exists here also a violent spasm and constriction producing great pain - In relieving these symptoms Venæ Section is unswerving - The V.P. must be copious to be of any service, to the amount of $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pint

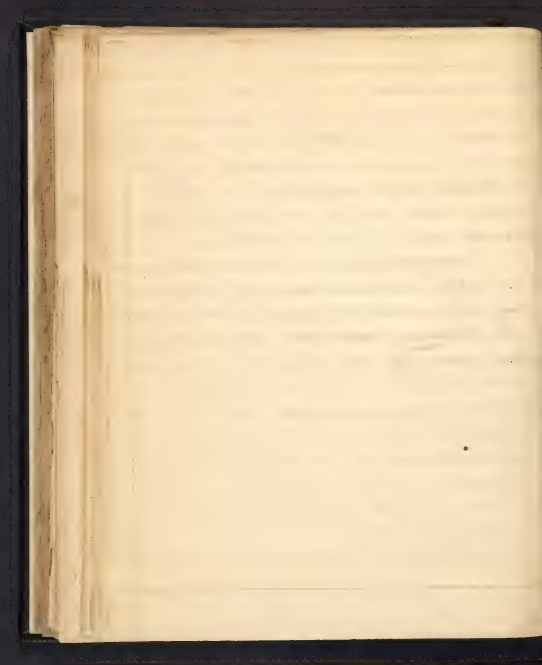


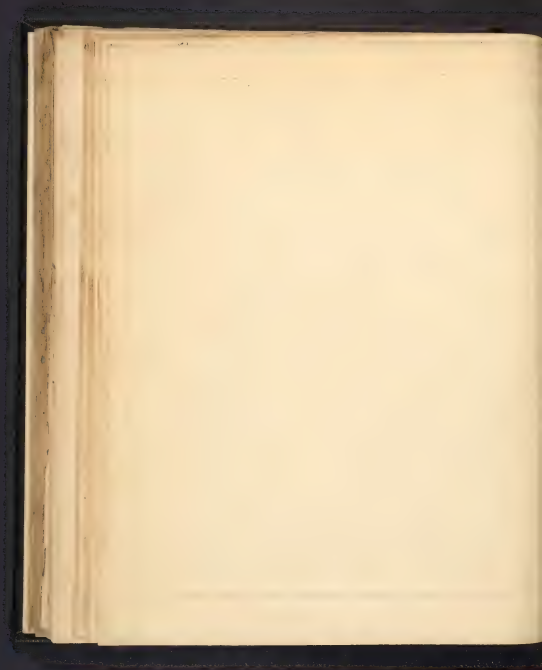
by it also we produce a relaxation and moist-
ness of the hot dry skin of the patient

It is right proper to resort to
purgatives to cleanse and thoroughly evacuate
the Intestines, Castor Oil and the saline pur-
gatives are generally prescribed. But I think
the mercurial purgatives infinitely preferable
as they evacuate the Intestinal canal thorough-
ly. — Calomel either alone or with Rheubarb
should be administered and if it lingers in its
operation follow it up with some laxative or
enema. — Now the time or Epsom Salts becomes
proper, and it is considered a sound practical
rule to continue to purge until natural
evacuations are procured. For while hard
faeces remain they will cause irritation and
inflammation. —

The frequent and severe guchings
attending this disease leads almost necessarily
to the use of Opium and they are very efficient







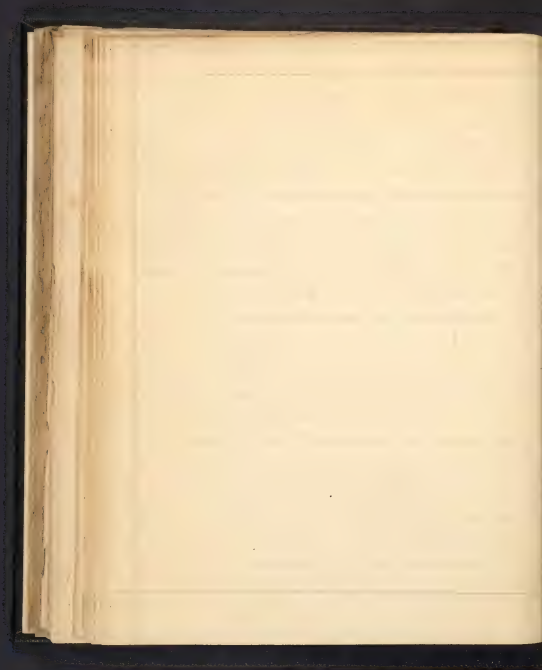


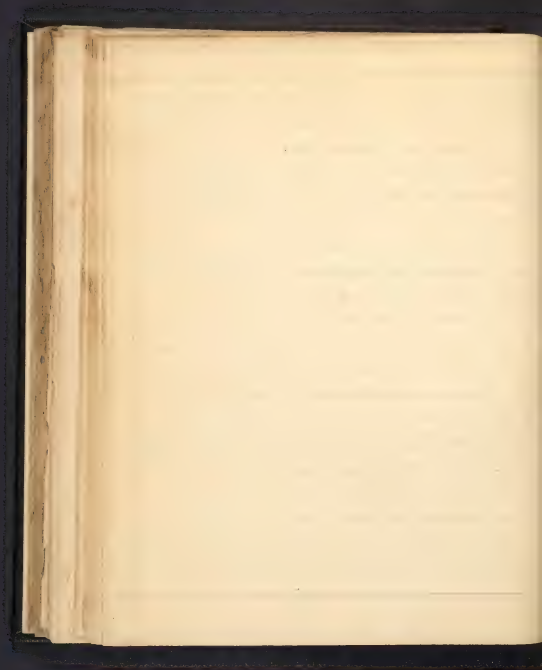
it is a good idea to make a good list
of the things that are in the house
and to keep it up to date. This is a good
idea because it will help you to know
what you have and what you need. It will
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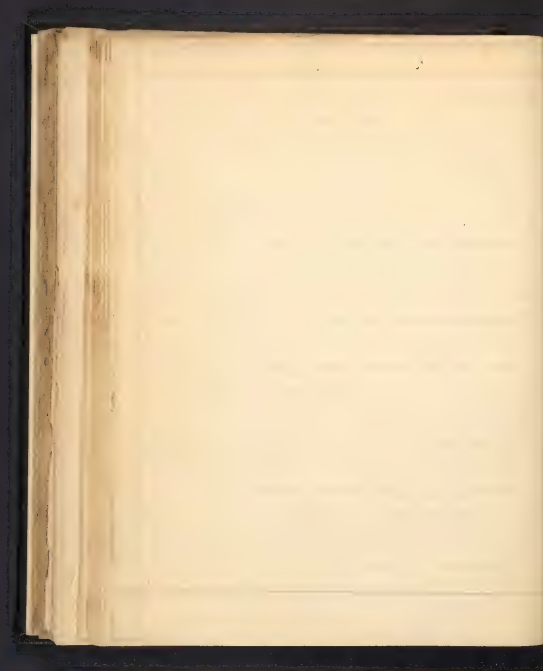




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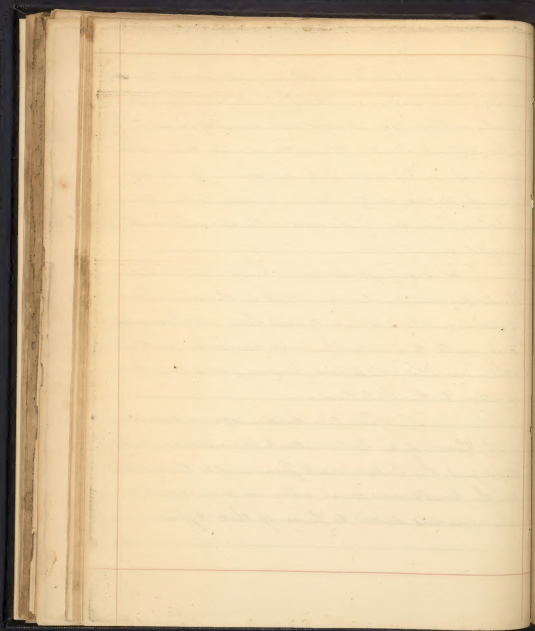


in use, the most and most agreeable are the Barley water, Rice water, decoctions of slippery Elm, Gum Arabi: water, Sage Arrow root and Tapioca.

The patient should observe the greatest caution and regularity in his mode of living, and he should go warmly clothed, as the disease is very liable to relapse from any fresh exposure to atmospheric vicissitudes.

In crowded places as in Ships Hospitals or Gaols and in particular States of the atmosphere Dysentery appears in a typhoid form, in these cases it is right to pursue the same course as in the other low States of disease, paying particular attention to the Intestines.

When this disease occurs connected with Fever of an Intermittent character we should disregard the Intermittent Fever until the affections of the bowels are cured when we may resort to the remedies suited to Fever of that type.



Misses in

Quantity

by

Edwin P. Allen

March 10, 1892

